

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-20 (canceled)

21. (previously presented): A method of controlling access of a user to a service, the method comprising:

obtaining a first, transient identifier associated with a communication session of said user over an anonymous network;

obtaining a second identifier associated with persistent real-world information of said user from a network access provider (NAP) through which said user is connected to said service, said second identifier associated with said first identifier at said NAP; and

controlling access based on said second identifier.

22. (previously presented): A method according to claim 21, wherein said service is selected from the group consisting of e-mail service, electronic banking, financial service, and firewall.

23. (previously presented): A method according to claim 21, wherein said network is selected from the group consisting of an Internet network, a wireless data network, a cellular data network, and a CATV-based data network.

24. (previously presented): A method according to claim 21, further comprising:

evaluating the reliability of said second identifier based on predetermined criteria; and

determining the level of access to provide to said user based on said reliability.

25. (previously presented): A method for providing a telephone call identifier, the method comprising:

obtaining by a network device an identifier associated with a telephone line accessing a data network; and

sending said identifier to be associated with a telephone call to a terminating telephone network.

26. (previously presented): A method for verifying that an anonymous network user is an adult, the method comprising:

obtaining by a network device account details associated with said user; and
reporting said user as an adult if said account details pertain only to users above a predetermined age.

27. (previously presented): A method according to claim 26, wherein said step of obtaining comprises receiving said account details from a network access provider servicing said user.

28. (previously presented): A method according to claim 26, wherein said account details pertain to at least one user below said predetermined age and further comprising:

obtaining information associated with said account generally known only to adult users of said account;

requesting said user to enter an at least generally significant part of said information; and

reporting said user as an adult if said at least generally significant part matches the corresponding part of said information.

29. (previously presented): A method for handling telephone calls during a dial-up Internet connection, the method comprising:

obtaining an identifier of a telephone line connecting a user to a data network from a network side of a connection between said user and said data network;

associating said identifier with information for contacting said user over said network; and

configuring incoming telephone calls to said user according to said information.

30. (previously presented): A method according to claim 29, further comprising:

upon receiving said incoming call, sending notification of said incoming call to said user.

31. (previously presented): A method according to claim 29, further comprising at least one of:

forwarding said incoming call to said user over said network;

forwarding said incoming call to said user over a telephone network;

sending to said user information about the origin of said incoming call; and

receiving from said user at least one order about how to handle said incoming call.

32. (previously presented): A system for handling telephone calls, the system comprising:

an extraction unit able to extract an identifier of a telephone line connecting a user to a data network from a network side of a connection between said user and said network;

an association unit able to associate said identifier with information for contacting

a user associated with said telephone number over said network; and
a messenger system communicating with said user over said network using said information for contacting said user.

33. (previously presented): A method according to claim 21 for verifying the authenticity of information provided by a user in a communication session over an anonymous network, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining account details previously collected by said NAP and associated with said user by said NAP; and

determining the authenticity of said information by comparing said information with said previously verified account details.

34. (previously presented): A method according to claim 21 verifying the authenticity of information provided by a user, the method comprising:

sending by a service provider to a network access provider (NAP) through which said user is engaged in a communication session with said service provider a request to identify said user, said request including said information and an identifier of said communication session; and

receiving a report from said NAP comprising the match results between said information and account details previously collected by said NAP and associated with said user by said NAP.

35. (withdrawn): A method for charging for commercial transactions conducted over a network between a user and a merchant, said user account being identifiable by a NAP, the method comprising:

generating a first account identifier of said user account by said NAP;
sending said first account identifier to said merchant; and
said merchant sending a billing transaction to a billing entity which charges said user account for access to said NAP.

36. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 35, wherein said first account identifier is one of the group consisting of a credit card number, a debit card number, and a bank account number.

37. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 35, wherein said network is selected from the group consisting of an Internet network, a wireless data network, a cellular data network, and a CATV-based data network.

38. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 35, further comprising:

inserting by a device said first account identifier into an electronic payment form used by said merchant.

39. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 35, wherein said merchant sending is conducted through a NAP of said user, utilizing an existing connection between said NAP and said billing entity.

40. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 35, wherein said step of said merchant sending said billing transaction is conducted through an ID switching module, and said first account identifier is a temporary account identifier, said method further comprising:

generating a second account identifier by one of a group including said ID switching module and a NAP;

sending to said ID switching module the association between said first account identifier and said second account identifier; and

when said billing transaction is sent, said ID switching module replacing said first account identifier with said second account identifier.

41. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 40 wherein said ID switching module is on an existing connection between a NAP of said user and said billing entity.

42. (withdrawn): A method for a billing entity to charge a user account for commercial transactions conducted over an anonymous network between a user and a merchant, the method comprising:

receiving an identification request for said user account;

obtaining an account identifier of said user account from a NAP;

generating a temporary identifier of said account;

sending said temporary identifier to said merchant; and

sending an association between said temporary identifier and said account identifier.

43. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 42, wherein said account identifier is one of the group consisting of a credit card number, a debit card number, and a bank account number.

44. (withdrawn): The method according to claim 42, wherein said network is selected from at least one of the group consisting of an Internet network, a wireless data network, a cellular data network, and a CATV-based data network.

45. (withdrawn): The method of claim 42, further comprising:

receiving a billing transaction from said merchant, said billing transaction including said temporary identifier;
replacing said temporary identifier with said account identifier; and
sending a billing transaction to a billing entity capable of billing said account.

46. (withdrawn): A method for charging for commercial transactions conducted over a network between a user and a merchant, said user connecting to said network through a NAP, the method comprising the steps performed by said merchant of:

requesting identification for said user from said NAP;
automatically receiving an identifier of said user account; and
sending a billing transaction to a billing entity which charges said user account for access to said NAP, said billing transaction including said account identifier.

47. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 46, wherein said user account identifier is one of the group consisting of a credit card number, a debit card number, and a bank account number.

48. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 46, wherein said network is selected from at least one of the group consisting of an Internet network, a wireless data network, a cellular data network, and a CATV-based data network.

49. (withdrawn): A system for a billing entity to charge a user account for commercial transactions conducted over an anonymous network between a user and a merchant, the system comprising:

an identification system operative with a network access provider (NAP), said NAP connected to said billing entity; and
a communication unit connected between said identification system and said merchant, said unit able to send an identifier usable for billing by said billing entity.

50. (withdrawn): A system according to claim 49, and further comprising:

a second communication unit connected between said identification system and said billing entity, said second unit able to send an association between a temporary identifier and an identifier usable for billing by said billing entity.

51. (withdrawn): A system according to claim 49, and further comprising:

an ID switching module in communication with said merchant, said billing entity and said identification system.